

SunHerald

Census: Bay St. Louis is Mississippi's fastest-growing city



At 11,388, town has surpassed its pre-Katrina population of 11,211

BY WESLEY MULLER

wmuller@sunherald.com Twitter: WesleyMullerSH May 20, 2015

BAY ST. LOUIS -- The city's population has surpassed its pre-Hurricane Katrina numbers for the first time since the 2005 storm, according to census data released today, making it the fastest-growing in the state among cities of more than 1,500 people.

The census shows Bay St. Louis had a 2014 population of 11,388, slightly more than its July 1, 2005, population of 11,211.

The city has gained 2,128 people since 2010, growing by 23 percent.

Mayor Les Fillingame attributes the rapid growth to the real estate market and the rebuilding of the city's historic district.

"The build-out of Old Town Bay St. Louis is the hottest part of real estate in the region," he said. "By and large, we have rebuilt the city to produce the results that we're seeing. Hats off to everyone involved in the recovery."

Another notable gain since Katrina belonged to D'Iberville, which grew from 8,258 to 10,962.

Ocean Springs just missed its pre-storm mark of 17,555 with 17,530 people, but has remained largely the same since 2010.

Gulfport, with a population of 71,750, has grown by 5.8 percent since 2010 and is approaching its pre-Katrina number of 73,260.

Biloxi has had a slight growth of 2 percent since 2010 but remains about 5,000 below its 2005 population of 50,562.

The only larger growth percentage in the census belonged to Duck Hill town in Montgomery County. Duck Hill has gained 360 people since 2010, spiking its population by 50 percent.

Pascagoula, Moss Point and Waveland have remained largely the same since 2010, each losing less than 1 percent.